

1.12 Roles in Ecosystems *Read p. 40-41*

- Each organism has a place and role in an ecosystem that we call a **niche**. For example, an owl is a predator (secondary consumer) that lives in forests and is nocturnal (hunts at night). Different species of warblers in our forests reduce competition by occupying different niches. They all feed on different parts of the tree.
- The introduction of a new species causes competition for certain niches. These species are called **exotic or invasive** since they do not naturally inhabit that ecosystem.

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Humans and Exotic Species

- Humans bring ecosystems together as we travel the globe.
- Africanized honey bees were brought to Brazil in 1957 to increase honey production. They are very aggressive and have killed over 150 people. They spread all the way to the southern U.S. but don't worry, Canada is too cold for them!

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Assignment

Read about the zebra mussel p. 42-44
How did they get to N.A.?
What is their niche?
How did they affect the food web of the Great Lakes?
Has the ecosystem recovered?
What was the economic cost to Ontario?

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